

4 APR 1950
1265

FAR EAST

1. THAILAND: Immediate US aid for Thailand urged--US representative Griffin, continuing his survey of the need and prospects for US aid to Southeast Asia, recommends an \$11 million assistance program for Thailand to make improvements in the fields of agriculture, health, education, transport, telecommunications, and industry. Griffin feels that the extension of such assistance to Thailand, which he considers to have a high degree of administrative and political stability, will strengthen the country's will and ability to resist both internal and external Communist pressures by improving economic conditions and convincing the Thai people that they have not been abandoned by the West. Griffin believes that although Thailand is not presently faced with emergencies as serious as those existing in Indochina and Burma, immediate implementation of an aid program is imperative to obtain the maximum political impact by indicating the "reality" of past US statements of interest in Thailand's welfare.

THE AMERICAS

2. BOLIVIA: Anti-Communist Conference suggested--US Ambassador Florman in La Paz reports that the President and Foreign Minister of Bolivia are deeply concerned over Communist activities in Bolivia and South America and plan to seek US counsel on the advisability of a conference of ten South American countries to consider mutual defense against Communism. The Foreign Minister expressed the thought that the US might prefer to send qualified observers rather than official representatives to such a conference.

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